*Janis Joplin: Rise Up Singing!*

Resources:

Angel, Ann. *Janis Joplin: Rise Up Singing!* New York: Amulet Books, 2010. Print.

Dylan, Bob. *Bob Dylan: Lyrics 1962-2001.* New York: Simon and Schuster, 2004. Print.

Oates, Joyce Carol. “Where Are You Going? Where Have You Been?” First published in *Epoch*, Fall 1966. Included in *Prize Stories: O Henry Award Winners* (1967). *Celestial Timepiece—The Joyce Carol Oates Home Page*. Ed. Randy Souther, University of San Francisco. 2012. Web. 30 Apr 2012.

Various websites for song lyrics and background information (see below)

ELA Content Standards and Benchmarks:

Reading Process—11-12

B. Demonstrate comprehension of print and electronic text by responding to questions (e.g., literal, inferential, evaluative and synthesizing).

Reading Applications: Informational, Technical, Persuasive—11-12

D. Synthesize the content from several sources on a single issue or written by a single author, clarifying ideas and connecting them to other sources and related topics.

E. Analyze an author’s implicit and explicit philosophical assumptions and beliefs about a subject.

Reading Applications: Literary Texts—11-12

B. Explain ways characters confront similar situations and conflict.

Writing Applications: 11-12

A. Compose reflective writings that balance reflections by using specific personal experiences to draw conclusions about life.

B. Write responses to literature that provide an interpretation, recognize ambiguities, nuances and complexities and that understand the author’s use of stylistic devices andeffects created.

Procedure:

* Students will read *Janis Joplin: Rise Up Singing*, which is a biography about a young girl who is confused and conflicted--the story of so many teens. The issues that author Ann Angel brings to light in Janis' life revolve around Janis' struggles with **insecurity**, searching for her personal and professional **identity**, finding her creative expression through rash behavior, her aversion to "following the rules,” **individual creativity and rights**, and dealing with the **pressures of choice between pleasure and hard work.**
* Students will annotate the text especially noting examples of the theme issues:
* Insecurity
* Identity
* Creativity
* Personal rights
* Peer Pressure
* Appearances vs. Reality
* Then, students will read and listen to the lyrics of selected Joplin and Dylan songs that also deal with the same theme issues.
* The last song will be Bob Dylan’s “It’s All Over Now, Baby Blue,” the song that inspired Joyce Carol Oates’ short story, “Where Are You Going? Where Have You Been?”

[Joyce Carol Oates](http://www.enotes.com/authors/joyce-carol-oates) was also inspired to write "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" after reading an account in *Life* magazine of a charismatic but insecure young man who had enticed and then killed several girls in Tucson, Arizona, during the early 1960s. Transformed into fiction, this story was first published by the literary journal *Epoch* in 1966 and was included in Oates's 1970 short story collection *The Wheel of Love*. Critical acclaim was so swift and certain that as early as 1972, critic Walter Sullivan noted that it was "one of her most widely reprinted stories and justly so." Along with the story's frequent appearance in textbooks and anthologies, Oates herself republished it in 1974 as the title story for *Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?: Stories of Young America*. This collection's subtitle points to Oates's ongoing interest in adolescence, especially the psychological and social turmoil that arises during this difficult period. Her preoccupation with these topics, along with her keen sense of the special pressures facing teenagers in contemporary society, is evident in ''Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?''

This story is seen by many as one of Oates's best and in the words of scholar G. F. Waller, it is "one of the masterpieces of the genre." Oates's realism often garners such praise; critics and readers alike have commended the presentation of the story's central character, Connie, as a typical teenager who may be disliked, pitied, or even identified with. A similar believability is instilled in Arnold Friend's manipulative stream of conversation and its psychological effects on a vulnerable teenager. Critics also praise the story for its evocative language, its use of symbols, and an ambiguous conclusion which allows for several interpretations of the story's meaning. In 1988, a film version of the story was released entitled *Smooth Talk*.

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* After reading the short story, students will compare the main character, Connie, to Janis noting their similarities.
* Finally, students will write blues lyrics/poems for Connie using Joplin and Dylan lyrics as inspiration. Poems and Lyrics will be presented informally in class.

**Selected Janis Joplin Song Lyrics** [From: http://www.elyrics.net/read/j/janis-joplin-lyrics/]

**Ball And Chain**  
Sittin’ down by my window,  
Honey, lookin’ out at the rain.  
Oh, Lord, Lord, sittin’ down by my window,  
Baby, lookin’ out at the rain.  
Somethin’ came along, grabbed a hold of me, honey,  
And it felt just like a ball and chain.  
Honey, that’s exactly what it felt like,  
Honey, just dragging me down.   
  
And I say, oh, whoa, whoa, now hon’, tell me why,  
Why does every single little tiny thing I hold on to go wrong ?  
Yeah it goes wrong, yeah.  
And I say, oh, whoa, whoa, now babe, tell me why,  
Does every thing, every thing.  
Hey, here you gone today, I wanted to love you,  
I just wanted to hold you, I said, for so long,  
Yeah! Alright! Hey!   
  
Love’s got a hold on me, baby,  
Feels like a ball and chain.  
Now, love’s just draggin’ me down, baby,  
Feels like a ball and chain.  
I hope there’s someone out there who could tell me  
Why the man I love wanna leave me in so much pain.  
Yeah, maybe, maybe you could help me, come on, help me!   
  
And I say, oh, whoa, whoa, now hon’, tell me why,  
Now tell me, tell me, tell me, tell me, tell me, tell me why, yeah.  
And I say, oh, whoa, whoa, whoa, when I ask you,  
When I need to know why, c’mon tell me why, hey hey hey,  
Here you’ve gone today,  
I wanted to love you and hold you  
Till the day I die.  
I said whoa, whoa, whoa!!   
And I say oh, whoa, whoa, no honey  
It ain’t fair, daddy it ain’t fair what you do,  
I see what you’re doin’ to me and you know it ain’t fair.  
And I say oh, whoa whoa now baby  
It ain’t fair, now, now, now, what you do  
I said hon’ it ain’t fair what, hon’ it ain’t fair what you do.  
Oh, here you gone today and all I ever wanted to do  
Was to love you  
Honey you can still hear me rock and roll the best,  
Only it ain’t roll, no, no, no, no, no.   
  
Sittin’ down by my window,  
Lookin’ out at the rain.  
Lord, Lord, Lord, sittin’ down by my window,  
Lookin’ out at the rain, see the rain.  
Somethin’ came along, grabbed a hold of me,  
And it felt like a ball and chain.  
Oh this can’t be in vain  
And I’m gonna tell you one more time, yeah, yeah!   
  
And I say oh, whoa whoa, now baby  
This can’t be, no this can’t be in vain,  
And I say no no no no no no no no, whoa,  
And I say whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa  
Now now now now now now now now now no no not in vain  
Hey, hope there is someone that could tell me  
Hon’, tell me why love is like  
Just like a ball  
Just like a ball  
Baaaaaaalllll  
Oh daddy, daddy, daddy, daddy, daddy, daddy, daddy, daddy  
And a chain.  
Yeah.

**Down On Me lyrics**  
Down on me, down on me,  
Looks like everybody in this whole round world  
They’re down on me.   
  
Love in this world is so hard to find  
When you’ve got yours and I got mine.  
That’s why it looks like everybody in this whole round world  
They’re down on me.   
  
Saying they’re down on me, down on me.  
Looks like everybody in this whole round world  
Down on me.   
  
When you see a hand that’s held out toward you,  
Give it some love, some day it may be you.  
That’s why it looks like everybody in this whole round world  
They’re down on me, yeah.   
  
Lord, they’re down on me, down on me, oh!  
Looks like everybody in this whole round world  
Is down on me.   
  
Believe in your brother, have faith in man,  
Help each other, honey, if you can  
Because it looks like everybody in this whole round world  
Is down on me.   
  
I’m saying down on me, oh, down on me, oh!  
It looks like everybody in this whole round world  
Down on me!!

**Kozmic Blues lyrics**  
Time keeps movin’ on,  
Friends they turn away.  
I keep movin’ on  
But I never found out why  
I keep pushing so hard the dream,  
I keep tryin’ to make it right  
Through another lonely day, whoaa.   
  
Dawn has come at last,  
Twenty-five years, honey just in one night, oh yeah.  
Well, I’m twenty-five years older now  
So I know we can’t be right  
And I’m no better, baby,  
And I can’t help you no more  
Than I did when just a girl.   
  
Aww, but it don’t make no difference, baby, no, no,  
And I know that I could always try.  
It don’t make no difference, baby, yeah,  
I better hold it now,  
I better need it, yeah,  
I better use it till the day I die, whoa.   
  
Don’t expect any answers, dear,  
For I know that they don’t come with age, no, no.  
Well, ain’t never gonna love you any better, babe.  
And I’m never gonna love you right,  
So you’d better take it now, right now.   
  
Oh! But it don’t make no difference, babe, hey,  
And I know that I could always try.  
There’s a fire inside everyone of us,  
You’d better need it now,  
{ From: http://www.elyrics.net/read/j/janis-joplin-lyrics/kozmic-blues-lyrics.html }  
I got to hold it, yeah,  
I better use it till the day I die.   
  
Don’t make no difference, babe, no, no, no,  
And it never ever will, hey,  
I wanna talk about a little bit of loving, yeah,  
I got to hold it, baby,  
I’m gonna need it now,  
I’m gonna use it, say, aaaah,   
  
Don’t make no difference, babe, yeah,  
Ah honey, I’d hate to be the one.  
I said you’re gonna live your life  
And you’re gonna love your life  
Or babe, someday you’re gonna have to cry.  
Yes indeed, yes indeed, yes indeed,  
Ah, baby, yes indeed.   
  
I said you, you’re always gonna hurt me,  
I said you’re always gonna let me down,  
I said everywhere, every day, every day  
And every way, every way.  
Ah honey won’t you hold on to what’s gonna move.  
I said it’s gonna disappear when you turn your back.  
I said you know it ain’t gonna be there  
When you wanna reach out and grab on.   
  
Whoa babe,  
Whoa babe,  
Whoa babe,  
Oh but keep truckin’ on.  
Whoa yeah,  
Whoa yeah,  
Whoa yeah,  
Whoa,  
Whoa,  
Whoa,  
Whoa,  
Whoa ...

**Little Girl Blue lyrics**  
Sit there, hmm, count your fingers.  
What else, what else is there to do ?  
Oh and I know how you feel,  
I know you feel that you’re through.  
Oh wah wah ah sit there, hmm, count,  
Ah, count your little fingers,  
My unhappy oh little girl, little girl blue, yeah.   
  
Oh sit there, oh count those raindrops  
Oh, feel ’em falling down, oh honey all around you.  
Honey don’t you know it’s time,  
I feel it’s time,  
Somebody told you ‘cause you got to know  
That all you ever gonna have to count on  
Or gonna wanna lean on  
It’s gonna feel just like those raindrops do  
When they’re falling down, honey, all around you.  
Oh, I know you’re unhappy.   
  
Oh sit there, ah go on, go on  
And count your fingers.  
I don’t know what else, what else  
Honey have you got to do.  
And I know how you feel,  
And I know you ain’t got no reason to go on  
And I know you feel that you must be through.  
Oh honey, go on and sit right back down,  
I want you to count, oh count your fingers,  
Ah my unhappy, my unlucky  
And my little, oh, girl blue.  
I know you’re unhappy,  
Ooh ah, honey I know,  
Baby I know just how you feel.

**Flower In The Sun lyrics**  
Oh please don't you think baby that I am wrong to cry, yeah.  
You loved me, too,  
So how come you just sit there and laugh  
And laugh and laugh and laugh ?  
Things just can't be this way  
And not for very long  
No no no no no no no no no no no no no no.  
Our love affair said it's just history, yes it is.  
  
And I tried to love you in my own way,  
I think that you know I did.  
But to have you here, to see you living,  
Oh so near to me, yeah, yeah, yeah.  
Oh but you are distant and so it's dead  
And so often people are glad to be old, yeah yeah,  
Our love affair is just history, yes it is.  
  
Once in a green time a flower  
Oh, fell in love with the sun.  
The passion lasted for an hour  
And then she wilted from her loved one.  
  
Once in a green time a flower  
Oh, fell in love with the sun.  
The passion lasted for an hour  
And then she wilted from her loved one.  
  
And I see you looking up at the sky, how high it is, yeah.  
You wonder if there is, whoa another me  
Now how can that be, how can it be ?  
Well, I sit here and I ask you, why all this ?  
I just got toni-ni-ni-night  
Our love affair said it's just a history  
But baby, baby, I said it's over, Charlie,  
I can't stand another lo-lo-lonely,  
I'm never too lonely.  
  
It's over baby,  
Where were you when I wanted ya  
And needed ya right by my side ?  
I said-a, baby, baby, don't you feel me moving,  
Baby, don't you hear me cry ?  
I know I hurt you, but Lord don't you know I cried,  
I know I hurt you, but babe don't you know I tried,  
Oh baby, oh babe, whoa.

**Ego Rock lyrics**  
*[Spoken:]*   
Let's go, let's go let's go let's go  
Peter you start it  
Richard, you start it  
Somebody start it  
  
I just had to get out on the Texas plane, Lord, well it was bringing me down  
Yeah, I had to get out of Texas, baby, Lord, it was bringing me down  
I been all around the world, but Port Arthur is the worst place that I've ever found  
  
I guess they couldn't understand it there, honey, they'd laugh me off the street!  
Lord, I guess they couldn't understand me, baby, honey, they'd laugh, I said they'd laugh me right off the street, yeah  
I said I want to keep on moving, baby, be the last person I ever wanna meet  
  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, honey ain't it hard when you're all alone  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, honey ain't it hard, Lord, when you're all alone  
I might die real old lady, but I'd never call Texas my home, no, no, no, oh!  
  
You say you come from Texas, baby, she says she left Texas with just her name  
*[Spoken:]* That's what she told me  
Yes she's from Texas I tell you, she says she left Texas with just her name  
Yes, well I swear when that girl came to the big city, Lord, she learned a brand new game  
Well, yeah!  
  
Honey, I hear you talkin' about sorrow, baby but you don't know my pain, that's right!  
Mercy! Mercy!  
I hear you talking about my sorrow, you don't know my pain  
You know there's an inside kind of sorrow, Lord, the women are always singin' the blues  
All right, all right mother fucker, you sing!  
  
You know I, I dealt the Ace to the Queen, you know I played scrabble with L.B.J.  
Yes, I dealt an Ace to the Queen, didn't I'll tell ya I's playin' scrabble with L.B.J.  
Well, I don't care what the name of the game is, baby, I tell you I always seem to get my way  
  
I used to be a doggone fool, fall for a woman's story every time  
But no more, I swear  
Well, I used to be a, be a doggone fool, fall for that old woman's story every time  
Yes I, I'm a big boy now, yeah, they gotta come up with some kind of heavy line  
Well, well, yeah!  
  
Sounds like I found the man, who could take care of my time  
It ain't me babe, it ain't me babe!  
It appears to me that I found a man, that could take care of my time  
Well, I got my own trouble, I got my own car, I got my own little lady, I got my hotel  
Oh what are you talking about!  
Don't try to take it!  
Somebody talks as fine as he does, oughta be able to take care of  
One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine  
  
Woman, woman, it just makes me mad  
Ahh, ahh! Woman, yeah  
Woman, yeah  
Woman, yeah  
Woman, yeah  
Woman, yeah, yeah, it just makes me mad  
Oh man, shit, man...  
Yes, she played me for the fool I tell ya  
Yes and I've got to love every man she's ever had, yeah  
  
If I found a man who could put me down the way you do  
I mean so handy-like, you know what I mean?  
Yeah, I found a man, whoa, who could put me down the way you do  
I mean so easy like it was second nature, y'know what I mean, man?  
Ah maybe that man could help me, at least, honey I thought I would give you a chance  
I said I, what I said I could try after the, after the show tonight maybe uh ...  
  
I'm just a working man, you know  
Ha ha ha ha, you don't work too hard, baby!  
You know I ain't no Hollywood star  
I'm not Joe Namath, you know, I read about that in the papers today  
You know I'm just a working man, you don't work too hard, baby!  
I never ran in a football game 200 yards  
Ha ha ha ha ha, that's the kinda man I like, that's the kinda man I like  
But you know I can take care of those country girls  
Well I can mess around in that farmyard  
Lord, Lord, whoaah!  
  
Ha ha ha! ha. Whew! Whew! Wow! That's getting a little too close, too heavy here  
That's Nick Gravenites, that was a tune called Ego Rock. No! ...  
  
All right, rock, rock & roll song

**Lemmings lyrics**  
That's the role of the government   
keeping track of what you spend now,   
it's our land of freedom and democracy,   
with the budget gone and spent,   
seperation imminent and we're expected   
happily to fall in line and so we fallow the leader   
and what he does know why i'm doing it   
just because i'm of thinking for myself.   
Oh ya and I hope to God i don't stir the pot keep my brain from   
original thought oh lemmings are cool   
lemmings are fun not too distinct and   
I wanna be one right now.   
Front of her was a long white line should she go   
or should she try to listen to her friends  
when she wasn't sure no opinion of her own   
soon enough you were alone   
cause it's hard to find a friend when you're on a ledge  
well i'll make my decision for myself   
without listening to anyone else oh lemmings are fucked,   
lemmings are dumb, and I wanna be one right now.

**Buried Alive in the Blues**

All caught up in a landslide, bad luck   
pressing in from all sides   
Just got knocked off of my easy ride,   
Buried alive in the blues   
  
Sunday morning everybody’s in bed, I’m   
On the street, I’m talking out of my head,   
This dumb brick wall ain’t heard a word   
That I’ve said,   
I’m buried alive in the blues   
  
I’m buried alive, oh yeah, in the blues   
I’m buried alive, somebody help me, in the blues   
  
I beg for mercy, I pray for rain,   
I can’t be the one to accept all this blame,   
Something here’s trying to pollute my brain,   
I’ buried alive in the blues.   
  
It’s real hard you know, it’s real hard being buried alive   
It’s real hard being buried alive   
When you’re buried alive they walk right on by you.   
When you’re buried alive they never care about you.   
When you’re buried alive, oh, you reach out for somebody,   
And when you’re buried alive you get can’t seem to press on through   
Being buried alive is a bad condition; it’s a real weird situation   
Being buried alive in the blues, it’s a real weird situation   
Being buried   
Being buried   
Being buried   
Being buried   
Being buried alive in the blues,   
It’s a real weird situation.   
Oh, yeah

**It's All Over Now, Baby Blue by Bob Dylan**

You must leave now, take what you need, you think will last  
But whatever you wish to keep, you better grab it fast  
Yonder stands your orphan with his gun  
Crying like a fire in the sun  
Look out the saints are comin’ through  
And it’s all over now, Baby Blue

The highway is for gamblers, better use your sense  
Take what you have gathered from coincidence  
The empty-handed painter from your streets  
Is drawing crazy patterns on your sheets  
This sky, too, is folding under you  
And it’s all over now, Baby Blue

All your seasick sailors, they are rowing home  
All your reindeer armies, are all going home  
The lover who just walked out your door  
Has taken all his blankets from the floor  
The carpet, too, is moving under you  
And it’s all over now, Baby Blue

Leave your stepping stones behind, something calls for you  
Forget the dead you’ve left, they will not follow you  
The vagabond who’s rapping at your door  
Is standing in the clothes that you once wore  
Strike another match, go start anew  
And it’s all over now, Baby Blue